



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office  
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[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

George J Vlahos  
8549 Heather Court  
St John, IN 46373

**COPY MAILED**

JUN 06 2008

In re Application of Vlahos : Decision on Petition  
Application No. 10/064,010 :  
Filing Date: June 4, 2002 :  
For: Light Therapy Equipment :

This is a decision on the petition filed February 25, 2008, under 37 CFR 1.181 to withdraw the holding of abandonment of the above-identified application.

The petition is **dismissed**.

Any request for reconsideration must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are NOT permitted.

The Office mailed a final Office action on January 17, 2007. The Office action set a three-month shortened statutory period for reply. A reply to the Office action was not received and the application became abandoned on April 18, 2007. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed September 6, 2007.

The instant petition contends a proper reply was timely filed in response to the final Office action. In support of the petition, petitioner has submitted a copy of an Auto-Reply Facsimile Transmission report which shows the "Received Cover Page" was a blank page and that a total of 5 pages, including the blank cover sheet, were filed July 17, 2007. Office received a blank page and 4 other pages on July 17, 2007. Since the blank page is not a transmittal letter listing each of the papers being filed, it is impossible to determine the content of the other 4 pages or even if the other 4 pages involved the instant application.

However, even if the Office assumes the 4 pages supplied with the petition are accurate copies of the pages filed, the petitioner could not be granted. The petition indicates the 4 pages filed with the blank sheet were:

- (1) A "Petition for Extension of Time" page,
- (2) A "Pre-Appeal Brief Request" page,
- (3) A "Notice of Appeal" page, and
- (4) A one page letter dated July 17, 2007, beginning with the language, "In response to the final rejection issued on January 17, 2007."

In order for the pages to have been timely and proper, petitioner would have needed to also file a credit card authorization form for payment of the extension of time fee and notice of appeal fee. However, none of the five pages sent by facsimile transmission appear to be a credit card authorization form.

The Office recognizes the "blank sheet" may simply be the result of the credit card form accidentally being placed into petitioner's facsimile machine backwards. However, regardless of the reason the first page filed was blank, the result was the Office did not have the authority to charge the required fees to petitioner's deposit account. Therefore, the application is abandoned.

The petition was accompanied by a total of \$760 for the extension of time fee and notice of appeal fee. Since the petition is being dismissed, the \$760 is refundable. Petitioner may either request a refund of the \$760 or, as discussed below, apply the \$760 towards the fee required from a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) to revive an application.

Petitioner may wish to consider filing a petition to revive based on unintentional abandonment under 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

- (A) A proper reply to the outstanding final Office action,
- (B) The required petition fee of \$770, and
- (C) A statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional.

As to item (A) above, if petitioner wishes to file a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) and for the reply to be a Notice of Appeal, petitioner should file a new Notice of Appeal, a new Pre-Appeal Brief request, and \$255 for the Notice of Appeal.

As to item (B) above, petitioner may wish to submit an additional \$10 and request the \$760 submitted on February 25, 2008, be applied towards the fee.

A copy of a blank petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) form is enclosed for petitioner's convenience. A PDF "fillable" version of the form can be found at:  
[http://www.uspto.gov/web/forms/sb0064\\_fill.pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/web/forms/sb0064_fill.pdf).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300  
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to Petitions Attorney Steven Brantley at (571) 272-3203.

  
Charles Steven Brantley  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions

Enclosures: Form for petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b)  
Privacy Act Notice

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>PETITION FOR REVIVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR PATENT ABANDONED UNINTENTIONALLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b)</b>	Docket Number (Optional)
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First named inventor:

Application No.:

Art Unit:

Filed:

Examiner:

Title:

Attention: Office of Petitions

**Mail Stop Petition**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FAX (571) 273-8300

**NOTE:** If information or assistance is needed in completing this form, please contact Petitions Information at (571) 272-3282.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to file a timely and proper reply to a notice or action by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The date of abandonment is the day after the expiration date of the period set for reply in the office notice or action plus an extensions of time actually obtained.

**APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR REVIVAL OF THIS APPLICATION**

**NOTE:** A grantable petition requires the following items:

- (1) Petition fee;
- (2) Reply and/or issue fee;
- (3) Terminal disclaimer with disclaimer fee - required for all utility and plant applications filed before June 8, 1995; and for all design applications; and
- (4) Statement that the entire delay was unintentional.

**1. Petition fee**

Small entity-fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (37 CFR 1.17(m)). Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

Other than small entity – fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (37 CFR 1.17(m))

**2. Reply and/or fee**

A. The reply and/or fee to the above-noted Office action in the form of \_\_\_\_\_ (identify type of reply):

has been filed previously on \_\_\_\_\_  
 is enclosed herewith.

B. The issue fee and publication fee (if applicable) of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
 has been paid previously on \_\_\_\_\_  
 is enclosed herewith.

[Page 1 of 2]

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.137(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: **Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**3. Terminal disclaimer with disclaimer fee**

Since this utility/plant application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, no terminal disclaimer is required.

A terminal disclaimer (and disclaimer fee (37 CFR 1.20(d)) of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a small entity or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for other than a small entity) disclaiming the required period of time is enclosed herewith (see PTO/SB/63).

**4. STATEMENT:** The entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the required reply until the filing of a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. [NOTE: The United States Patent and Trademark Office may require additional information if there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional (MPEP 711.03(c), subsections (III)(C) and (D)).]

**WARNING:**

Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

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Signature

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Date

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Typed or printed name

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Registration Number, if applicable

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Address

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Telephone Number

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Address

Enclosures:  Fee Payment

Reply

Terminal Disclaimer Form

Additional sheets containing statements establishing unintentional delay

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

Deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300.

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Date

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Signature

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Typed or printed name of person signing certificate

## Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974** (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.